

August 14, 2009

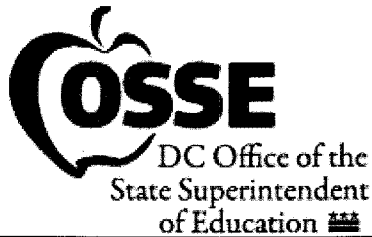
In response to preliminary DC CAS data released on July 13, 2009, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) received appeal letters from 21 schools within the District of Columbia, including both DCPS and public charter schools. These appeals identified possible issues with the DC CAS preliminary data which is used to calculate school AYP.

Appeal determination letters were provided to LEAs on August 13, 2009. Due to student privacy concerns, some of the appeal letters are not posted. Others are posted with redactions that block any potentially identifying student information.

The non-posted appeals primarily identified errors in the data at the individual student level. Some examples include:

- Students who were identified in the preliminary data as economically disadvantaged (receiving free/reduced lunch). The school provided documentation showing that these students do not receive free/reduced lunch.
- Students who were identified in the preliminary data as non-disabled students. The school provided documentation of valid, active Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) showing that these students receive special education services.
- Students who were identified in the preliminary data as attending an incorrect school. The school provided documentation that students had withdrawn prior to the testing window.

Further questions about the 2009 AYP appeals process may be directed to Liz Cohen at (202) 481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.



August 13, 2009

Erin McGoldrick
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 N. Capitol St, NE 8th floor
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. McGoldrick,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) on behalf of Leckie Elementary School on July 28, 2009. This school appeal was based on the school's claim that the student with disabilities subgroup should be allowed to have a Safe Harbor target even though the school has not previously surpassed the minimum n-size for this particular subgroup.

In the case where a school failed to meet AYP solely because of a subgroup which has not previous been disaggregated, subgroups will have a baseline proficiency rate established by averaging scores for students within that subgroup from the previous two years. If the combined group from the previous two years is less than 25, then three years of data may be averaged. If combining three years of data results in a group less than 25, the subgroup must meet the AMO and no Safe Harbor will be calculated. Safe Harbor targets will be determined using the baseline proficiency rate from averaging multiple years of data.

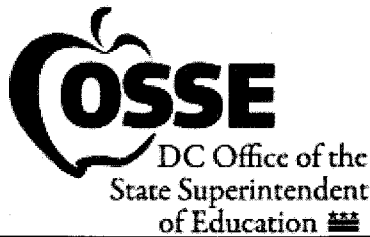
With this rule, Leckie Elementary School does make AYP via Safe Harbor for the subgroup of students with disabilities. These changes are reflected in the data that will be released on August 14, 2009.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Jermall Wright, Principal of Leckie Elementary School



August 13, 2009

Erin McGoldrick
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 N. Capitol St, NE 8th floor
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. McGoldrick,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) on behalf of Oyster-Adams Elementary School on July 28, 2009. This school appeal was based on the school's claim that the student with disabilities subgroup should be allowed to have a Safe Harbor target even though the school has not previously surpassed the minimum n-size for this particular subgroup.

In the case where a school failed to meet AYP solely because of a subgroup which has not previous been disaggregated, subgroups will have a baseline proficiency rate established by averaging scores for students within that subgroup from the previous two years. If the combined group from the previous two years is less than 25, then three years of data may be averaged. If combining three years of data results in a group less than 25, the subgroup must meet the AMO and no Safe Harbor will be calculated. Safe Harbor targets will be determined using the baseline proficiency rate from averaging multiple years of data.

Even with this rule, Oyster-Adams Elementary School does not make AYP via Safe Harbor for the subgroup of students with disabilities.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

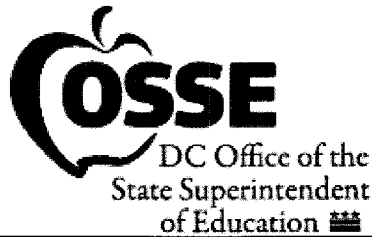
Sincerely,



Cathie Carothers

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Monica Liang-Aguirre, Principal of Oyster-Adams Elementary School



August 13, 2009

Ms. Wanda Perez
DC Bilingual Public Charter School
1420 Columbia Road NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ms. Perez,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by DC Bilingual Public Charter School on July 20, 2009. This school appeal was based on the school's claim that the students with disabilities subgroup should be allowed to have a Safe Harbor even though the school has not previously surpassed the minimum n-size for this particular subgroup.

In the case where a school failed to meet AYP solely because of a subgroup which has not previous been disaggregated, subgroups will have a baseline proficiency rate established by averaging scores for students within that subgroup from the previous two years. If the combined group from the previous two years is less than 25, then three years of data may be averaged. If combining three years of data results in a group less than 25, the subgroup must meet the AMO and no Safe Harbor will be calculated. Safe Harbor targets will be determined using the baseline proficiency rate from averaging multiple years of data.

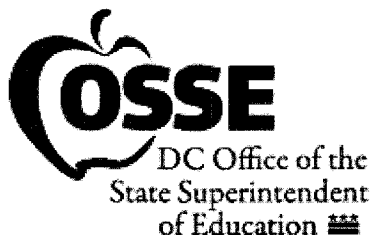
DC Bilingual Public Charter School does not have sufficient historical data to allow for the averaging of previous scores. As a result, OSSE is unable to determine Safe Harbor for the students with disabilities subgroup.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board



August 13, 2009

Dwayne Jones
Young America Works Public Charter School
6015 Chillum Place NE
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by Young America Works Public Charter School on July 24, 2009. This appeal was based on the school's claim that errors were made in the calculation of the participation rate. This appeal is denied.

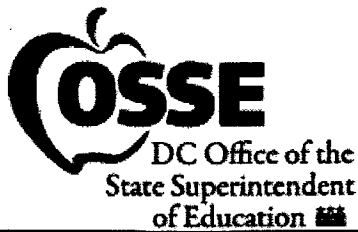
The data provided to charter schools by the Public Charter School Board was not the final OSSE data, which likely caused the supposed discrepancies. OSSE could not find the claimed errors in the OSSE database. OSSE has verified the data against information provided by the school.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board



August 13, 2009

Tara King
William E. Doar Public Charter School for the Performing Arts – NE Campus
705 Edgewood St NE
Washington, DC 20017

Dear Ms. King,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by William E. Doar Public Charter School on July 28, 2009. This school appeal was based on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A second claim was that grades 7-12 should be attributed to the upper school instead of only grades 9-12.

On the first claim, OSSE has verified [REDACTED]

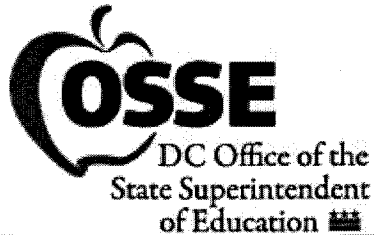
[REDACTED] The data viewed by the school was provided by the Public Charter School Board, and was not final OSSE data, which likely caused the discrepancy. On the second claim, the appeal is approved. OSSE agrees that the upper school serves grades 7-12, and all grades at an individual school should be included for accountability purposes. The appropriate changes will be made and will be reflected in the data that will be released on August 14, 2009.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board



August 13, 2009

Kari Smith
Friendship Public Charter Schools
120 Q St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by Friendship Public Charter Schools on behalf of Friendship Public Charter School – Blow-Pierce Campus on July 28, 2009. This appeal was based on the school's claim that errors were made in the calculation of the number of students in the total school group. This appeal is denied.

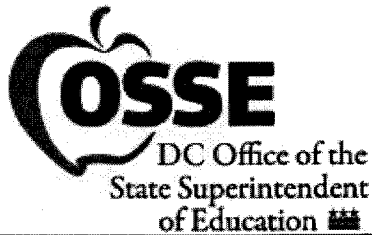
Friendship Public Charter Schools Blow Pierce claimed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] OSSE has verified with CTB that all received tests were scored. OSSE could not find any information to indicate that any tests were missing or had not been scored. In addition, OSSE could not find any data to support the claim that the total number of students was incorrect, and the school failed to submit supporting documentation to back up this claim.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board



August 13, 2009

Kari Smith
Friendship Public Charter Schools
120 Q St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by Friendship Public Charter Schools on behalf of Friendship Public Charter School – Chamberlain Campus on July 28, 2009. This appeal was based on the school's claim that errors were made in the calculation of the number of students in group. This appeal is denied.

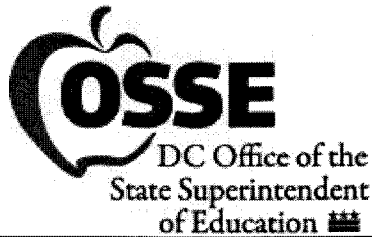
OSSE could not find any data to support the claim that the total number of students was incorrect, and the school failed to submit additional documentation to support this claim.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board



August 13, 2009

Kari Smith
Friendship Public Charter Schools
120 Q St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing in response to the appeal submitted by Friendship Public Charter Schools on behalf of Friendship Public Charter School – Woodridge Campus on July 28, 2009. This appeal was based on the school's claim that errors were made in the calculation of the number of students in group. This appeal is denied.

Friendship Public Charter Schools Woodridge claimed that all students were tested. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] OSSE has verified with CTB that all received tests were scored. OSSE could not find any information to indicate that any tests were missing or had not been scored.

Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent public education in the District of Columbia, and best of luck with the start of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Liz Cohen at 202-481-3848 or elizabeth.cohen@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathie Carothers
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: Dawnyela Meredith, Public Charter School Board